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Docket: 2865
(203-3505PCTUS)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT(S): Frank J. Viola, et al **EXAMINER:** To Be Assigned
SERIAL NO.: To Be Assigned **GROUP UNIT:** To Be Assigned
FILED: Concurrently Herewith
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/US2003/031649
INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 6 October 2003
PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED: 4 October 2002
TITLE: ANGLED SURGICAL FASTENER APPARATUS

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir/Madam:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

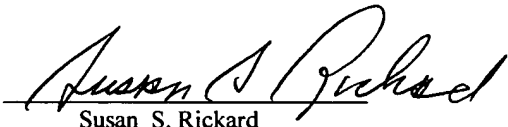
Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper..

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EU799732847US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 3/20/05


Susan S. Rickard